

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, SF
SUBJECT: ARTICLE XXVIII NEGOTIATIONS SOUTH AFRICA

REF: STATE 194701

1. REGARDING TRADE POTENTIAL FOR BREEDING CATTLE, PRESENT MARKET IS PROBABLY REDUCED BECAUSE OF WEAK MEAT AND DAIRY PRICES. IF IMPORTS WERE FREE, 1979 IMPORTS COULD REACH 700 HEAD AT AVERAGE \$2,500 EACH OR \$1.75 MILLION. THIS WOULD BE HALF OF PEAK YEAR OF 1974.

2. SAG HAS NOT FORMALLY EMBARGOED CATTLE BUT IS FOLLOWING A POLICY OF VIRTUALLY NO IMPORT LICENSING. IT MAINTAINS THAT SHARP RISE IN IMPORTS OF BREED STOCK IN 1973-75 AROSE FROM FACT THAT POPULAR SANTA GERTRUDIS AND BRAHMAN BREEDS WERE RELATIVELY NEW. IT SUSPECTS THAT OTHER CONSIDERATIONS INCLUDED OPPORTUNITY AFFORDED WEALTHY FARMERS TO ENJOY A TAX DEDUCTIBLE TRIP TO US AND IN MANY CASES TO EVADE EXCHANGE CONTROLS BY FALSE INVOICING OF IMPORTED BULLS. TO ASSURE ACTUAL TRADE RESULTS, WOULD BE NECESSARY TO GET SAG TO ABANDON SYSTEM OF ACTING ON RECOMMENDATION OF BREEDING ASSOCIATIONS IN ISSUING IMPORT PERMITS.

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ASSOCIATIONS TAKE POSITION THAT NEARLY ALL BREEDING REQUIREMENTS CAN NOW BE MET FROM DOMESTIC STOCK OR IMPORTS OF SEMEN.

3. SOUTH AFRICAN STATISTICS ON STYRENE IMPORTS CONFLICT WITH US FOR 1978. SA CUSTOMS DATA FOR JANUARY THROUGH MAY SHOW IMPORTS OF 5,388,189 KILOS, VALUED AT \$1.976

MILLION, WITH US AS SOLE SOURCE. SASOL MARKETING, A MAJOR IMPORTER, CONFIRMS THIS, SAYING IMPORTS FROM US ARE EXPECTED TO TOTAL \$3.5 MILLION FOR YEAR (10,000 TONS COMPARED TO 7,000 IN 1977.)

4. SASOL IS ONLY MANUFACTURER OF STYRENE IN SA BUT SAYS IT IS NOT PREPARED TO DISCUSS PRODUCTION LEVELS OR CAPACITY. SASOL AND AECI BOTH PRODUCE METHYL ALCOHOL AS BY-PRODUCTS. SASOL UTILIZES ALL OF ITS PRODUCTION BUT WILL NOT DISCUSS OUT-PUT OR CAPACITY. AECI HAS NOT YET RESPONDED TO OUR INQUIRIES.

5. REGARDING OTHER POSSIBILITIES, HAVE DEPARTMENT AND AGRICULTURE CONSIDERED RICE, PARTICULARLY MILLED RICE? MILLED RICE IS PRESENTLY COVERED BY 12-1/2 PERCENT TEMPORARY SURCHARGE, BUT WE BELIEVE REMOVAL OF SURCHARGE AND BINDING MIGHT BE OF SIGNIFICANT VALUE. (SEE ALSO 77 STATE 108950.)
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